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### **Job seekers and students: Campbell River Forestry Employment Expo set for Sept. 26**

Interested in a career in forestry? Mark your calendar for Sept. 26, when Campbell River will host its annual Forestry Employment Expo.

Sept. 23 to 29 is National Forestry Week, and the North Island Employment Foundations Society and the City of Campbell River are joining forces to highlight forestry careers and the many benefits of the industry at the Forestry Employment Expo Sept. 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Maritime Heritage Centre.

Exhibitors will include a broad range of participants from logging contractors to natural resource consultants to value-added businesses and training institutions. Job seekers, students and community members are all welcome to attend.

*“Campbell River and the North Island have a long history and connection to the forest industry and, in addition to the benefits of economic diversification, forestry continues to be a very important economic driver that builds healthy, stable communities provincially and across the region,”* says Rose Klukas, the City’s economic development officer. *“According to the updated BC Jobs Plan, forestry contributed \$7.3 billion to BC’s economy in 2015 and provides well-paying and diverse job opportunities in communities such as Campbell River.”*

Forestry offers a range of career opportunities, from silviculture, production, harvesting, transportation and trades to forestry consulting, to roles as technologists and technicians, professionals in biology and natural resources as well as management and manufacturing.

Of the more than 3,500 jobs NIEFS posted in 2017, 547 (or 15 percent) were forestry-related. 90% of those posted forestry jobs were full-time. This number has been increasing over the past few years.

*“The anticipated retirements that lie ahead for people currently working in the forest industry will provide opportunities for a diverse range of people who have traditionally been under-represented in our workforce such as: youth, indigenous, women and newcomers,”* says Shannon Baikie, NIEFS’ regional manager of community and labour market services.

*“With the demands of the global economy and technological advances, forestry has become increasingly complex and requires a range of skills and specialized knowledge to maintain responsible stewardship of resources,”* Klukas adds. *“Ultimately, ensuring the industry has a highly skilled and adaptable workforce will allow the industry and rural communities to identify and take advantage of economic opportunities globally, for greater stability locally.”*

*“Preparing a workforce through education and training such as those provided through the Carihi Forestry program, North Island College, Vancouver Island University and other post-secondary institutions is essential to the continued efforts of directly connect training with jobs,”* Baikie adds. *“And, we are really excited to have VIU on site this year with their Equipment Simulator trailer, so if you’ve ever wanted to know what it is like to operate heavy equipment this is your opportunity! Be sure to come and check it out.”*

For more information, visit <http://www.niefs.net/events/forestry-expo>.

Explore more career opportunities at NIEFS’ annual community Career Fair on Oct. 23 at the Community Centre.

To learn more about careers in Forestry, check out <http://thegreenestworkforce.ca> or [www.workbc.ca](http://www.workbc.ca).

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